

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 11-15 and 17-30 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18, 22 and 26-30 are amended. Claims 17, 18, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 are independent.

The withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and specification is noted with appreciation.

Claims 3-7, 11-15, and 17-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by newly cited Cannon (US 2002/0177483).

As amended, each of independent claims 17, 18, and 26-30 now recite that (i) play of the first game or first type game (as applicable) by the first player on the first gaming machine is initiated by the first player placing a bet associated with the first game or first type game (as applicable) at the first gaming machine, and play of the second game or second type game (as applicable) by the first player on the first gaming machine is initiated by the first player placing a bet associated with the second game or second type game (as applicable) at the first gaming machine, and (ii) the first gaming machine or first controller (as applicable) is further configured to accept a bet of the first player to initiate the first game or first type game (as applicable) without the first player meeting a prior qualification for play of the first game or first type game (as applicable), and (iii) the first game machine and the second game machine are further configured to interactively communicate or the first and the second gaming machine or the game machine and the other game machine communicate such that the first and the second controllers interact (as applicable) to accept a bet of the first player to initiate the second game or second type game (as applicable) without the first player meeting a prior qualification for play of the second game or second type game (as applicable), including a prior qualification relating to play of the first game or first type game (as applicable) by the first player.

Thus, according to each of the amended independent claims, a player at a gaming machine that controls play of a first or first type game (as applicable) can play, at that gaming machine, a second or second type game (as applicable) controlled by another gaming machine, without the player meeting a prior

qualification for play of the second game or second type game (as applicable), including a prior qualification relating to play of the first game or first type game (as applicable) by the player.

In contrast, Cannon (see the Abstract) states that "A base, or primary game is employed wherein qualification for an additional feature event is based upon one or more predetermined activities associated with the primary game." This required qualification for playing the secondary game (i.e. the game controlled by another gaming machine), is detailed further defined by Cannon in, for example, paragraphs 0018, 0020, 0024 and finally 0026 where Cannon further clarifies that "At least one secondary, or second gaming unit is operatively coupled to the at least one first gaming unit such that the ability to 'play' the secondary gaming unit is dependent upon the happening of a predetermined activity within the first gaming unit." (emphasis added) The required qualification "based upon one or more predetermined activities associated with the primary game" is also addressed in Cannon's detailed description at, for example, paragraphs 0042-0044 and 0074. According to Cannon, a player must always qualify before being allowed to participate (e.g. wager or bet on) the secondary game. In this regard, Cannon, in paragraph 0075, explicitly teaches that "If the qualifying activity has not occurred, the logic returns to step 402, as indicated in step 406, wherein another wager is placed with the primary gaming unit [for play of the primary game]."

Thus, according to Cannon, although the first and the second gaming machines interactively operate so as to allow a player at the primary gaming machine to participate in the secondary game played on the secondary gaming machine, the player's play of the secondary game is dependent on the player meeting a prior qualification for play of the secondary game.

Therefore, Cannon fails to teach or suggest the first and the second gaming machines having the features recited in each of amended independent claims 17, 18, and 26-30.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously

solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No.1227.43716x00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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